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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT TO
NORTH KOREA

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers led with yesterday's surprise visit to North Korea by former President Bill Clinton and his meeting with DPRK leader Kim Jong Il.

¶2. "Main Principle of Denuclearization Must Not Be Compromised" The conservative Sankei editorialized (8/5): "Concern remains about the U.S. possibly making wrong-headed concessions through negotiations over the release [of the two hostages]. We urge the Obama administration to uphold its principles on the resolution of the nuclear issue and provide to Japan, South Korea, and other concerned parties a detailed briefing on the process and outcomes [of the Clinton visit].... The Obama administration must not forget its declaration that U.S.-DPRK dialogue would only be [possible] within the framework of the Six-Party Talks."

¶3. "Clinton Visit Should Be Used to Achieve Breakthrough" An editorial by the liberal Asahi argued (8/5): "We welcome [the Clinton visit], as it has finally opened a window to dialogue between the U.S. and North Korea.... However, there is one issue that we want the U.S. to take into account. Since Japan is confronted with the abduction issue in addition to the nuclear and missile development issues, concern remains within the GOJ about the U.S. making concessions.... The U.S., while searching for additional clues to achieving a breakthrough, is called upon to make efforts to coordinate closely with Japan and South Korea."

¶4. "Release Female Journalists First" The liberal Mainichi insisted in an editorial (8/5): "It would be significant if North Korea, by taking advantage of the latest development, would stop taking provocative actions and abandon its previous approach of gaining concessions by staging crises and blackmailing. If such a policy turnaround could be ensured, it would be acceptable if U.S.-DPRK talks were to precede the Six-Party Talks as a matter of formality. However, the basis of trust has already been destroyed. We urge the U.S. again to be careful not to be fooled by the DPRK. North Korea's aim is to disrupt unity among the U.S., Japan, and South Korea and have them accept its nuclear and missile programs as a fait

accompli."

15. "Do Not Repeat Same Mistake" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun contended (8/5): "North Korea, in the face of the deteriorating health of its leader Kim Jong Il, appears to be very keen to have the U.S. recognize it as a 'nuclear power.' A series of missile launches and a nuclear test were carried out in order to realize that goal. North Korea must not be allowed to come to the false conclusion that its demands can be met through military blackmail."

ZUMWALT